

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, November 25, 1896, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. 1331 Connecticut Ave., Washington, D. C. November 25, 1896. My dear Alec:

Mary told me a story today that she heard Mr. MacLaren, the author of "Beside the Bonnie Briar Bush" tell in his reading the other day.

There was a certain Dr. Norman McCloud a minister so much beloved that all the country side knew him as simply "Norman" — It happened that one of his parishioners was taken dangerously ill of typhoid fever, and a neighboring clergyman was called in to pray with the invalid. On leaving it occurred to this gentleman to inquire why he had been called instead of Dr. McCloud to whose church she belonged. Imagine his feelings on being told, "O why do you suppose we would risk Norman in a case like this!"

Aileen and I made several calls this afternoon in a tremendously swell livery couple. The last was on Mrs. U. S. Grant and her daughter and granddaughter Mrs. and Miss Sartores. They were all very cordial and friendly and I rather changed my previously unfavorable opinion of Mrs. Grant. She is stout certainly but not vulgar. They have a most beautiful home and are surrounded by many most beautiful and rare objects from all over the world. I could not help thinking of General Grant's last days slaving at that work to pay his debts and keep his wife in comfort. He seems to have succeeded. Miss Sartores looks a simple unaffected girl and her mother about as young as she.

I have sent Perrin with your card to some of the Chief men at the different embassies whom Papa or Mr. Pollock recommended, and if they return it will invite them to the party — Some have already done so in person. Elsie has two lunch parties and has been invited 2 to receive and take supper all for the first week in December. This is a good beginning.

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I have made all arrangements for the supper and lunch already so hope I shall not be hurried at the last moment.

I went out to Georgetown this evening and played whist with your Father and Mother, Your Mother is much better and your father as jolly as ever — When shall I expect you, I am beginning to count the days. The first evening reception to which we are invited is December 4th. can you be here then? I'll let you off most of the teas but need you for evening affairs.

Ever Yours, Nov. 24th. There is a very good article in the Nov. Atlantic on the causes of the agricultural unrest that produced the silver craze — The sum of it is that if it hadn't been silver it would have been something else that there is great prosperity and wealth, great wealth to be made in farming with good soil and executive ability but the causes determining for instance the price of wheat are world-wide — and quite beyond the ken of the ordinary under-educated farmer who attributes it to various local causes — and to remedy which he grasps at the first greatly advertized quack nostrum.